

**City of San Diego
MEDICAL MARIJUANA TASK FORCE**

**MEETING SUMMARY FOR
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2001 @ 12 NOON**

**EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5TH FLOOR
1010 SECOND AVENUE**

(For Information contact Ed Plank,
Task Force staff, 619-236-6433)

Attendance:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: Juliana Humphrey, Larry Chaidez, Ann Shanahan-Walsh, Dale Kelly Bankhead, Jerry Meier, Dr. Al Best, St. Clair Adams, Steve McWilliams. Staff: Lt. Carl Black and Lori Witzel.

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. Direction was given to staff to find out if video cameras are allowed during the meeting under the Brown Act.

REPORT TO PUBLIC SAFETY & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE:

TF Chair: Juliana Humphrey

Juliana Humphrey discussed the report to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. She described the proposal by Council Member Atkins and Inzunza for the Task Force to develop a medical marijuana registry program for City Council consideration. The committee voted 4-1 to support the proposal. Council Member Maienschein voted nay. Juliana felt very positive about the meeting.

There was discussion regarding the subcommittee on Legislation taking on the registry initiative. Ann informed the group that the city of Los Angeles implemented identification cards. Dale stated all bills need to be out of Legislature by September 18th. If SB 187 passes it will preempt anything the City does with respect to a patient registry. Juliana stated she would contact the county and inform them of the Task Force's observation of what people need from a registry system.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Patient/Doctor Issues Subcommittee

Ann Shanahan-Walsh stated the two questionnaires were finished and deferred to Jerry Meier to provide the report. The questionnaires were discussed and Jerry asked that the Task Force members

provide input by August 24th. Dr. Best offered to help get the questionnaires out. A request was made by Jerry Meier to check on an available Website. Direction was given for Ed Plank to see if a link can be set up through the Library Website for the questionnaires. Dale suggested they be put in local newspapers and to have a news conference. Mike Barbee offered his time for outreach and Dr. Best offered to do public appearances. Steve McWilliams proposed for the City to have table space available at community fests.

The goal is to collect as much data as possible, in as short a form as possible, stated Jerry. And Juliana suggested the members have a plan ready to be implemented by the next meeting.

The Task Force would like this survey to be distributed on City letterhead and directed Ed to find out if there would be political ramifications and would also like to know who would be reviewing the document.

Dale suggested the survey also be printed in Spanish, but requested information as to whom would provide the translation.

Law Enforcement Subcommittee

St. Clair Adams reported that Lt. Black would be receiving a request for a quarterly status report on arrests made by the Police Department for the sale and possession of marijuana. St. Clair will also be sending a request to the Drug Enforcement Agency for status reports, and Juliana suggested he send a request to the Sheriff's Department.

St. Clair met with Dave Litugia from the District Attorney's Office and stated they had a difference of opinion. St. Clair said cultivation and distribution is what amounts to arrests. Steve thought if Lt. Black could find out how much it costs to arrest someone, including the time it takes to complete all the paperwork, this could be used as a tool to turn opinions as it would give citizens an idea of how much money would be saved. Lt Black stated he would bring back numbers at the next meeting.

The Task Force discussed the Union Tribune editorial and Juliana informed them she was meeting with Bernie Jones.

Medical Research Subcommittee

Mike Barbee, who's working with Michael Bartelmo on the subcommittee, discussed the last meeting and distributed a copy of their minutes. Dr. Best informed the Task Force that Marinol doesn't work and would provide information regarding his study of 500 patients.

Legislative Efforts Subcommittee

Dale reported the plan had been to implement an ordinance from other jurisdictions around the state which have identification programs, but they needed information on the amount of marijuana allowed and cultivation/distribution issues. One question was who would administer it since the City does not have a health department. Arcada's police department implements their program, but some rejected that approach.

Steve has been invited to attend the next subcommittee meeting in order to provide other view points.

She stated they were reviewing recently adopted laws in Canada and HR 2592 in which Federal Legislation will provide standardization. Dale suggested sending individual letters of support to local assembly persons.

Patient Advocacy Subcommittee

Steve reported that his subcommittee sent out letters to Northern California and to the City Attorney and the District Attorney asking for guidelines. He said San Francisco is sending material. Letters were sent to Paul Pfingst and the City Attorney for legal opinions.

According to Steve, the guidelines used by the Police Department are not the current guidelines. The Police Department is using guidelines from Attorney Lundgren. Steve suggested that guidelines could be adopted based on what the Court would allow, but Juliana did not think this would be productive.

There was a motion to formally ask the Council to adopt guidelines for a caregiver. No second.

Juliana suggested they layout a blueprint for a co-op. Dale commented on the guidelines used by San Francisco for I.D. cards for caregivers and users. Dr. Best suggested finding an attorney to draft something and bring it back to committee.

Questions/Discussion

The report to PS&NS, Juliana stated, mentioned the need for diversity and nominated Conley R. Major to the Task Force. There was a second by St. Clair/Dr. Best. Vote: Unanimous.

Dale stated that SB 187 is a voluntary program and no social security numbers are on the cards.

Public Comment

June Reyno was concerned that without the backing of AMA, how could identification cards be issued? Dr. Best stated that only 25% of doctors subscribe to AMA and that it wasn't an issue. Juliana said there are doctors willing to provide statements for patients to receive I.D. cards. June offered her assistance to the Task Force.

Conley Major commended the subcommittees for their reports and thanked them for nominating him to the Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.